

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, this week, the House will consider the INVEST in America Act.

This bill is a critical and transformative component of President Biden's bold action plan to invest in our Nation's infrastructure while creating good-paying American jobs and rebuilding our economy as we continue to navigate through the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased the bill includes several of my provisions that make significant investments in building resilient infrastructure to withstand the impacts of climate change, including wildfires and floods, while at the same time putting the U.S. on a path to achieving zero emissions in the transportation sector.

The INVEST in America Act provides us an opportunity to fix our country's crumbling infrastructure while ensuring economic prosperity for America's workers and their families.

I am committed to continuing to work with President Biden and all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure these historic investments in our future come to fruition now.

This is our moment.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF OFFICER KEVIN APPLE

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today.

Arkansas lost one of its finest over the weekend. Pea Ridge Police Officer Kevin Apple was tragically killed in the line of duty while working to apprehend two suspects. When he approached the suspects' vehicle, he did what professional law enforcement officers do. He didn't shy away from the threat. He confronted it. And in so doing, he gave his life for his community.

It reminds us of the supreme courage displayed by the men and women in uniform and the growing dangers they face each and every day. Through his leadership, bravery, and selfless dedication, Officer Apple exemplified the best our State has to offer.

For more than 20 years, he nobly served in law enforcement. He was a protector and demonstrated the principled integrity the badge requires. This heart for service was at the core of his character. Past his uniform, he was known as a good neighbor who was always willing to help others.

Arkansas will never forget his service. I join Mayor Jackie Crabtree and Police Chief Lynn Hahn; his mother, Dalene Hart; stepfather, Richard White; and brother, Kyle Hart, in mourning his loss.

The Third District of Arkansas was blessed to have such a dedicated hero keeping us safe. We will always keep his memory alive.

AMENDMENTS 87 AND 89 TO THE INVEST IN AMERICA ACT

(Ms. CASTOR of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, there is good news. The Congress intends to invest in America through passage of a landmark surface transportation and infrastructure package. This is what President Biden challenged us to do, and we will follow through.

It also comes one year after the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis made landmark recommendations to solve the climate crisis and expand clean energy through a clean energy action plan to cut greenhouse gas pollution, to reach net zero as soon as possible, follow the science, improve our health, and make our communities more resilient to costly climate fuel disasters.

Madam Speaker, over the past year, we have already passed 250 recommendations here in the House and turned 100 of them into law. But now we are going to build on that progress through the INVEST in America Act.

It is the most climate-forward transportation bill in the history of the Congress with record investment in public transit and rail; investments to make roads and bridges more resilient; record investment in electric vehicle charging stations, pedestrian and bicycle trails; progress on environmental justice, clean air, and clean water.

This is good news, indeed.

MANAGING OUR FORESTS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, radical environmentalists have weaponized the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA, and are using frivolous lawsuits to block nearly every management project or salvage sale after fire that the U.S. Forest Service proposes.

This has helped result in over 68 million acres of forest land burned in the last decade and over 10 million acres just in 2020 alone.

I am pleased to see President Biden today is speaking about how to address wildfires. One important component I hope he will look into and help rectify is we desperately need to rectify the litigation and the amount of stoppage of forest management that is the result of environmental groups.

These groups have worked very hard to advance the false scenario that climate change is somehow responsible for the increasing vulnerability of forests. This is flatout false. The truth is that the decline of responsible timber harvesting and the lack of active management are undeniably the real culprits.

In California, most forest types historically had, in the past, about 64 trees per acre. They now sit at an average of over 300 trees per acre. Indeed, too much inventory.

We need to get back to basics and manage our forests and help prevent this fire problem.

INVEST IN AMERICA ACT

(Mrs. LURIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the INVEST in America Act.

I am pleased that this bill includes funding for projects that are critical to our community in coastal Virginia.

The parallel Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel will expand to four lanes, will make the roads safer, and reduce traffic. Updating Tidewater Drive in Norfolk will facilitate access to Norfolk Naval Station, the world's largest Navy base.

The funding will create a much-needed evacuation route for the Sandbridge community and Virginia Beach in the event of flooding or extreme weather, which happens more frequently due to climate change.

This bill will also fund the replacement of aging buses that serve Hampton Roads Transit.

Madam Speaker, finally, the INVEST in America Act will fund planning for the Craney Island Marine Terminal, connecting Route 164 with the Commonwealth Railway that services the Port of Virginia, which is responsible for one in nine jobs in the Commonwealth.

Members of Congress must be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, and I advocated for these projects that will support our constituents. Investing in infrastructure strengthens the backbone of our economy, keeps America running, and puts a down payment on the future.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for these critical projects.

FAIR REPAIR ACT

(Mr. MORELLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in support of a simple concept: A consumer's right to repair the goods they own.

For too long, large corporations have used embedded technology to prevent small business owners and everyday Americans from repairing their own equipment. This needs to change, which is why I am proud to introduce the Fair Repair Act to put power back in the hands of consumers where it belongs.

The concept behind this is as old as it is simple: if you own something, you own all of it, including the right to repair it.